

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated February 13, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the Application. Claims 9-11 are added by this amendment. By means of the present amendment, claims 1-8 are amended including for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Further amendments include changing "characterized in that" to -- wherein--, correcting typographical errors and changing spelling from British to American spelling, as well as amending dependent claims to begin with "The" as opposed to "A". By these amendments, claims 1-8 are not amended to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

The Applicants note the object to FIGs. 3b, 5a and 5c and are having drawings prepared to improve the quality of FIGs. 3b, 5a and 5c. The improved drawings will be submitted shortly.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that the Information Disclosure Statement was received and reviewed.

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the suggestion in the Office Action to add section headings to the specification. However, the Applicants respectfully decline to add the headings as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a) or 37 C.F.R. 1.77(b) for that matter.

The disclosure is objected to due to an informality in the specification. The specification is amended herein to correct the noted informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3, 6 and 7 are allowable if amended to be in independent form. Claims 3 and 6 are provided in independent form respectively as new claims 9 and 10. Claim 7 is provided as new claim 11, which depends from claim 10. Accordingly, claims 9-11 are allowable and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite due to a lack of antecedence basis for the term "wherein the third subset of rules ...". Claim 8 is amended herein to cure this problem and properly reflect the that "wherein a second subset of rules ...". Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 8 is now in proper form and it is respectfully requested that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,254,044 to Lee ("Lee"). Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lee. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 are allowable over Lee for at least the following reasons.

Lee shows a tabletop stand that utilizes a stationary leg 14 (see, FIGs. 1 and 2) that is fixedly attached to a base 10 and two pivoting legs 16 that are pivotably attached to the base 10 (see, Col. 1, lines 56-59). The pivoting legs each have a circular bevel gear that interact when the pivoting legs are extended outwards (or inwards) with relation to the base such that each of the pivoting

legs extend in different planes when the legs are adjusted between an operation position and a rest position.

It is respectfully submitted that the stand of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Lee. For example, Lee does not disclose or suggest, a stand that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "a housing is provided to which the support is fixedly mounted, and a coupling element is provided in said housing for rotationally coupling the central axes of the journals of the legs at an angle relative to each other, wherein the coupling element and the journals together are configured to maintain the legs in said one plane while the stand is adjusted between the rest and operational positions" as recited in claim 1. In fact, the stand of Lee extends the pivoting legs in different position when being adjusted between the rest and operational positions.

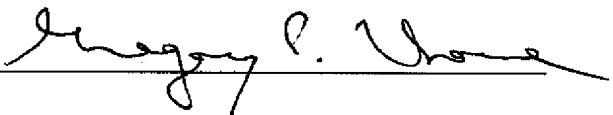
Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Lee and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims.

Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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